

**Debenham
High School**



Lights! Camera! Read!



**SUMMER READING
LIST 2024**

Welcome to the Debenham High School Summer Reading List for 2024. This year's theme 'Lights! Camera! Read!' features some of the many books that have been made into films. As you already know each month in the School Library we have a book display on a particular author or series of books to help spark your interest in reading. In conjunction with the book display we like to show a film relating to the topic of the display. We have featured many book to screen adaptations over the years, some well known like the Harry Potter or Hunger Games series, to lesser known adaptations like The Chronicles of Prydain, which Disney adapted into the Black Cauldron. But there are many many more which deserve recognition.

What follows is a selection of book to film adaptations. Some you may already be familiar with, but others may come as a surprise. The format of each page is the same, with the book cover and brief summary at the top of the page and the film poster with movie info at the bottom. Although all books are considered Teen to Young Adult and the films are 12A or below in their rating, students and parents/carers should use their discretion as to whether they are suitable based on individual reading levels, challenging themes and content.

Most of the books are available to borrow from the School Library over the summer.

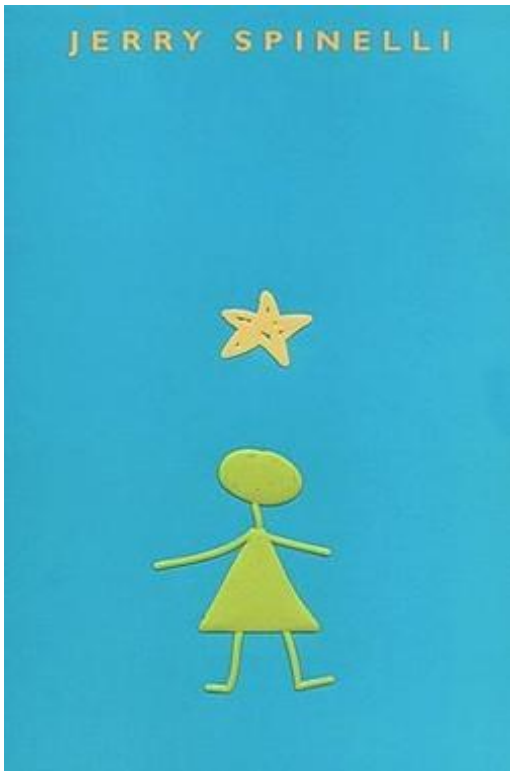
We hope that the varied selection of book recommendations within this reading list will inspire students to pick up a book (or two) this summer. I would love to hear your opinion on those you have read (and the films you watched) and perhaps make some recommendations of your own.

Happy Summer Reading!

Mrs C Foord-Johnson

Learning Resources Coordinator

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli



About the Book....

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out - under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes, for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl arrives in an explosion of colour and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.

But soon the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise

and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her.

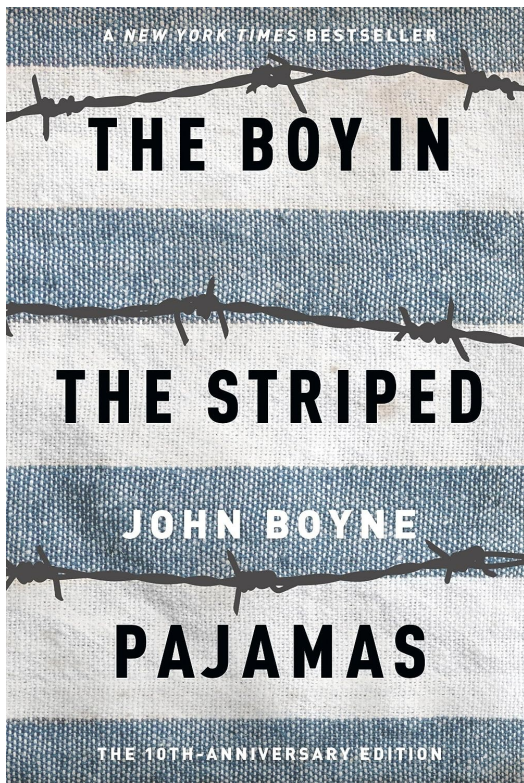
In a celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

About the Film...

Stargirl, the film, was released in March 2020 on Disney +. It is best described as an American jukebox musical romance. The film, as the book, explores the tense emotions, non-conformity and self-expression of teenagers in high school, and the exuberance of first love. It received mostly positive reviews, with critics praising the screenplay for overcoming some of the clichés in the original novel. The film was removed from Disney+ last year, but is available to rent on Amazon Prime.



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne



About the Book....

Nine-year-old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas.

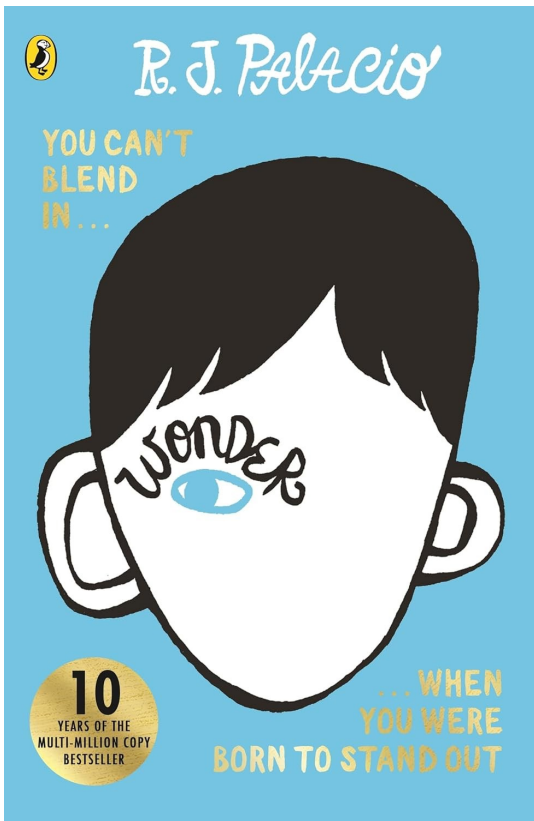
Bruno's friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to revelation. And in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

About the Film...

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas was produced by David Heyman, who was the Executive Producer on all eight Harry Potter Films. However...this is a far cry from the fantasy of those movies. Based on the book by the same name, the film is set in Nazi-occupied Poland, and follows the son of a Schutzstaffel officer who befriends a Jewish prisoner of his age. Described as a Holocaust historical drama, the film was released in 2008. It can be streamed on various platforms including YouTube, Apple TV and Amazon Prime.



Wonder by R. J. Palacio



About the book...

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, riding his bike. He *feels* ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be

accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

About the Film...

Described as an American coming-of-age family drama, *Wonder* has big name stars including Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson. The film, as with the book, follows a boy named August Pullman with a condition called Treacher Collins syndrome as he tries to fit in at school. It received positive reviews from critics and audiences alike, with many praising Jacob Tremblay's (who played Auggie) performance. The film is currently on Netflix. A spin-off and prequel film, *White Bird*, will be released in October, 2024.



Inkheart by Cornelia Funke



About the Book...

Meggie loves stories, but her father, Mo, hasn't read to her since her mother disappeared.

When a stranger knocks at their door, Mo is forced to reveal an extraordinary secret – when he reads aloud, words come alive, and dangerous characters step out of the pages.

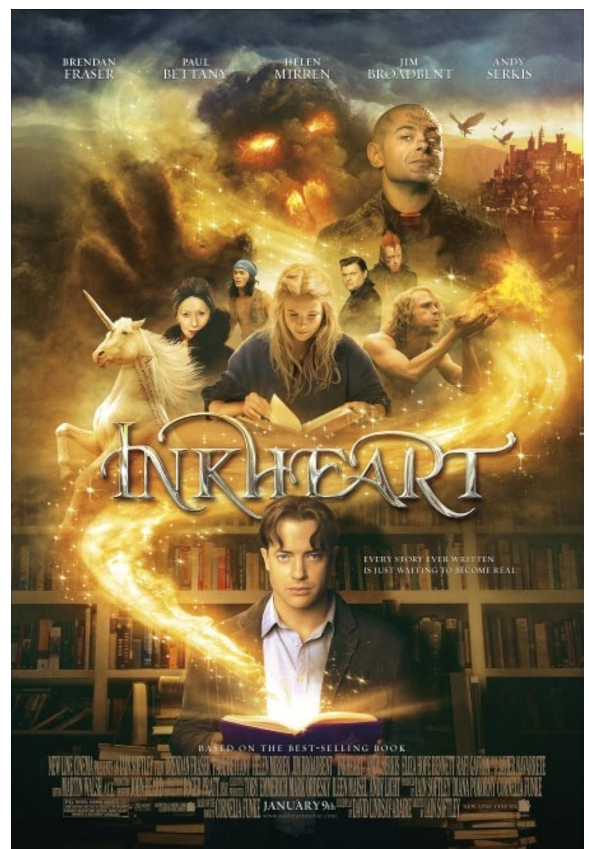
Suddenly Meggie is living the kind of adventure she has only read about in books, but this one will change her life for ever ...

Meggie must learn to harness the magic that has conjured this night-

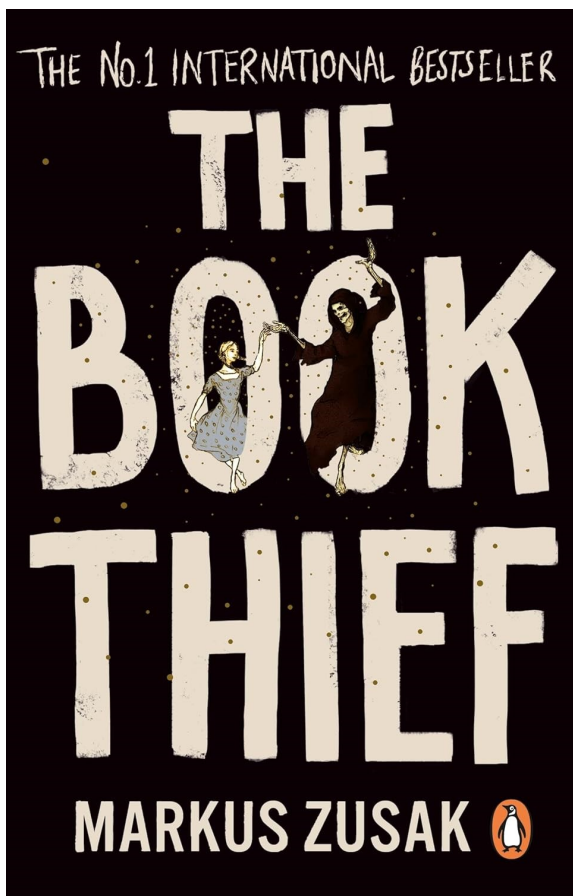
mare. For only she can change the course of the story that has changed her life forever.

About the Film...

In 2008 New Line Cinema in partnership with Warner Brothers released the film based on the Inkheart book. It was filmed primarily in Shepperton Studios in London, Hever Castle in Kent and in various locations within Italy. Despite its clever use of immersing CGI technology it received mixed reviews. You can watch it on Amazon Prime or Apple TV to decide if it lives up to the book.



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak



About the Book...

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the

mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found.

But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down.

About the Film...

Best described as a war drama, The Book Thief film was released in 2013 and starred well-known actors Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson. Based on the book it tells the story a Liesel who begins "borrowing" books and sharing them with the Jewish refugee being sheltered by her foster parents in their home. Highly praised for its film score and the young lead, Sophie Nélisse's performance, the movie can be streamed on Disney + or Amazon Prime.



Ready Player One by Ernest Cline



About the Book...

It's the year 2044, and the real world has become an ugly place. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes this depressing reality by spending his waking hours plugged into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia where you can be anything you want to be. And like most of humanity, Wade is obsessed with the ultimate lottery ticket that lies concealed within this alternate reality: OASIS founder James Halliday, who died with no heir, has promised that control of the OASIS - and his massive fortune - will go to the person who can solve the riddles he has left scattered throughout his creation. For years, millions have struggled fruitlessly to attain this prize...and then Wade stumbles onto

the key to the first puzzle.

Suddenly, he finds himself pitted against thousands of competitors in a desperate race to claim the ultimate prize, a chase that soon takes on terrifying real-world dimensions - and that will leave both Wade and his world profoundly changed.

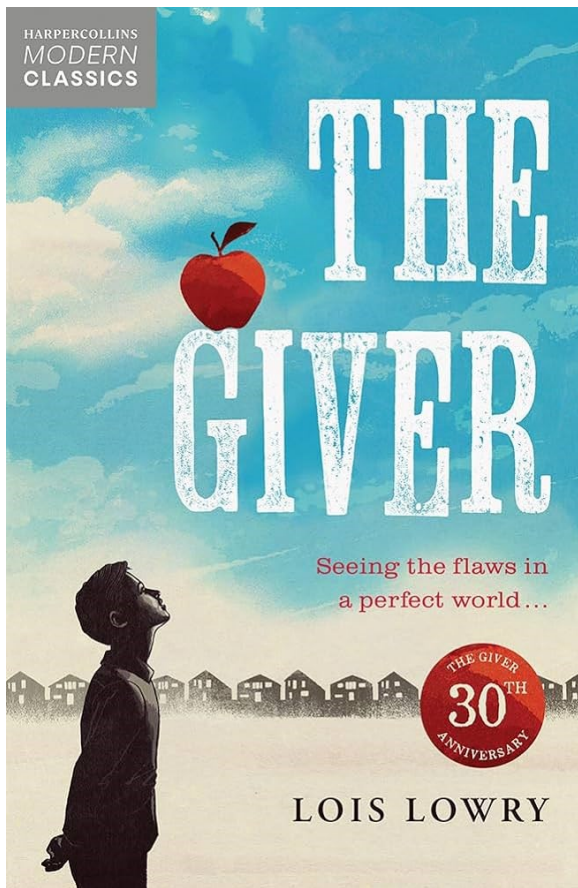
About the Film...

Ready Player One, the film, was co-produced and directed by Steven Spielberg and released in 2018 through Warner Brothers. The screenplay was written by Ernest Cline, the original author of the book.

The film received positive reviews from critics, who praised Spielberg's direction, the visual effects, brisk pacing, and the performance of the main character Wade, played by Tye Sheridan. The Film can be streamed on multiple platforms including Amazon Prime and Apple TV.



The Giver by Lois Lowry



About the Book...

It is the future. There is no war, no hunger, no pain. No one in the community wants for anything. Everything needed is provided. And at twelve years old, each member of the community has their profession carefully chosen for them by the Committee of Elders.

Twelve-year old Jonas has never thought there was anything wrong with his world. But from the moment he is selected as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers that their community is not as perfect as it seems.

It is only with the help of the Giver, that Jonas can find what has been lost. And it

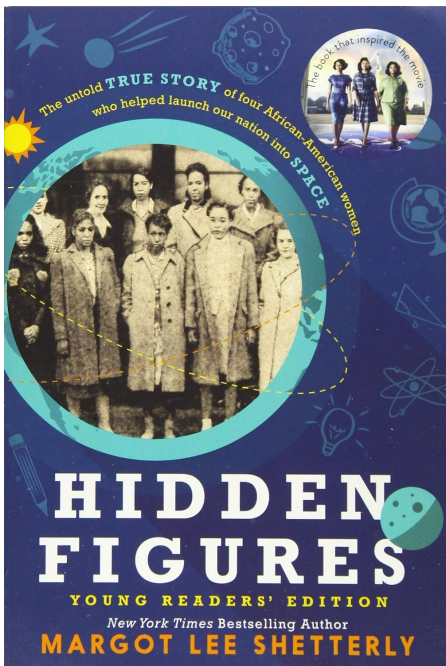
is only through his personal courage that Jonas finds the strength to do what is right...

About the Film...

Advertised as a dystopian film drama, The Giver has some big name stars including multiple award winning actress Meryl Streep and mega music star Taylor Swift. Released in 2014 it grossed \$67 million on a \$25 million budget and received a People's Choice Award nomination for "Favourite Dramatic Movie". However, critics' reviews were not kind saying "the movie doesn't dig deep enough into the books thought-provoking ideas". Why not decide for yourself by reading the book and watching the movie, available to stream via Google Play, Amazon Prime and Apple TV.



Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly



About the Book...

Before John Glenn orbited the Earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as “Human Computers,” calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these “coloured computers,” as they were known, helped write the equations that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Moving from World War II through NASA’s golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the women’s rights movement, Hidden Figures interweaves a rich history of scientific achievement and technological innovation with the intimate stories of five women whose work forever changed the world.

About the Film...

Hidden Figures (the film) is a 2016 biographical drama, loosely based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly about three female African-American mathematicians who worked at NASA during the Space Race.

The film received positive reviews, with praise for the acting, writing, direction, cinematography, emotional tone, and historical accuracy. It was chosen by the National Board of Review as one of the top ten films of 2016 and received various awards and nominations, including three nominations at the 89th Academy Awards, including Best Picture. It is available for streaming on multiple platforms including Disney + and Amazon Prime.



Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones



About the Book...

In this beloved modern classic, young Sophie Hatter from the land of Ingary catches the unwelcome attention of the Witch of the Waste and is put under a spell...

Deciding she has nothing more to lose, Sophie makes her way to the moving castle that hovers on the hills above her town, Market Chipping. But the castle belongs to the feared Wizard Howl, whose appetite, they say, is satisfied only by the souls of young girls...

There Sophie meets Michael, Howl's apprentice, and Calcifer the fire demon, with whom she agrees a pact. Her entanglements with Calcifer, Howl and Michael and her quest to break her curse

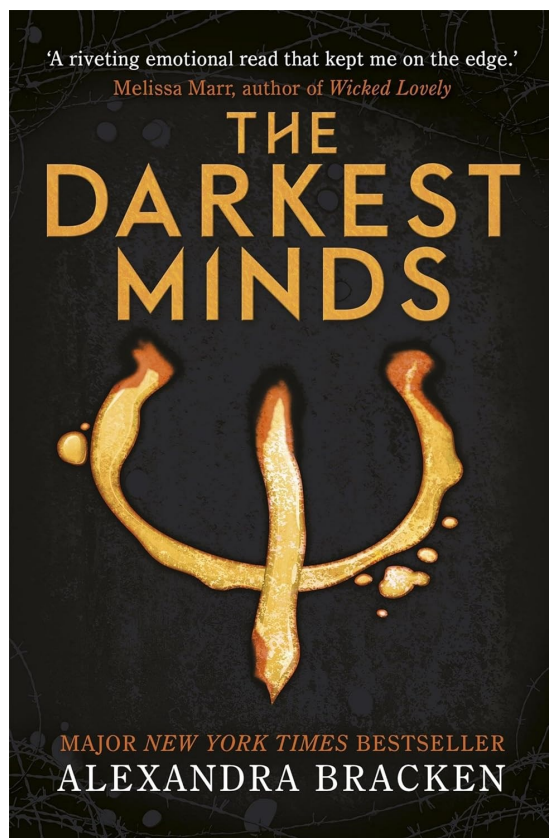
come alive with Diana Wynne Jones's unique combination of magic, humour and imagination.

About the Film...

This 2004 Japanese animated fantasy film was written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki (Studio Ghibli) and is loosely based on the 1986 novel of the same name. The English version is dubbed by well-known actors such as Christian Bale and Billy Crystal. The film is set in a fictional kingdom where both magic and early twentieth-century technology are prevalent, against the backdrop of a war with another kingdom. The film is significantly thematically different from the novel; while the novel focuses on challenging class and gender norms, the film focuses on love, personal loyalty and the destructive effects of war. Howl's Moving Castle is available on Netflix.



The Darkest Minds by Alexandra Bracken



About the Book...

When Ruby woke up on her tenth birthday, something about her had changed. Something alarming enough to make her parents lock her in the garage and call the police. She might have survived the mysterious disease that killed most of America's children, but she and the others emerged with something far worse: frightening abilities they cannot control.

After escaping a brutal "rehabilitation camp", Ruby, now 16, is one of the dangerous ones. She joins a group of kids on the run. While they journey to find the one safe haven left for kids like them - East River - they must evade their determined pursuers, including an organization that will stop at

nothing to use Ruby in their fight against the government. But as they get closer to the things they've dreamed of, Ruby will be faced with a terrible choice, one that may mean giving up her only chance at a life worth living.

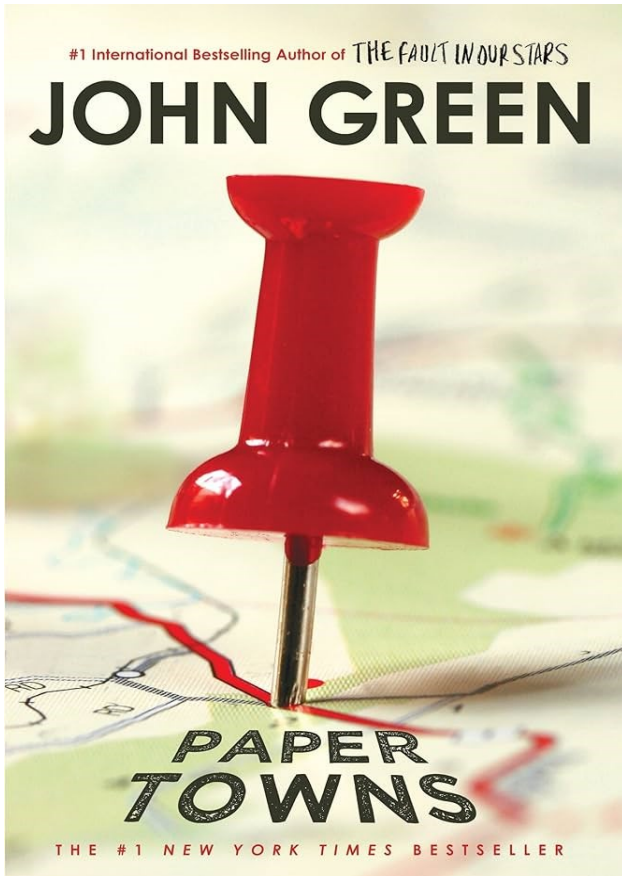
About the Film...

The Darkest Minds is considered a dystopian science fiction film. It is based on the book by the same name and follows a group of children who are on the run from the government after obtaining superpowers due to a mysterious infection.

It was released in 2018 by 20th Century Fox, but was considered a box office flop, despite grossing \$41.1 million, against a production budget of \$34 million. Critics felt it didn't live up to the book and although the novel is first in a series of books, it is considered highly unlikely any further films in the series will be made. Why don't you decide what you think for yourself by watching it on Disney + or Amazon Prime.



Paper Towns by John Green



About the Book...

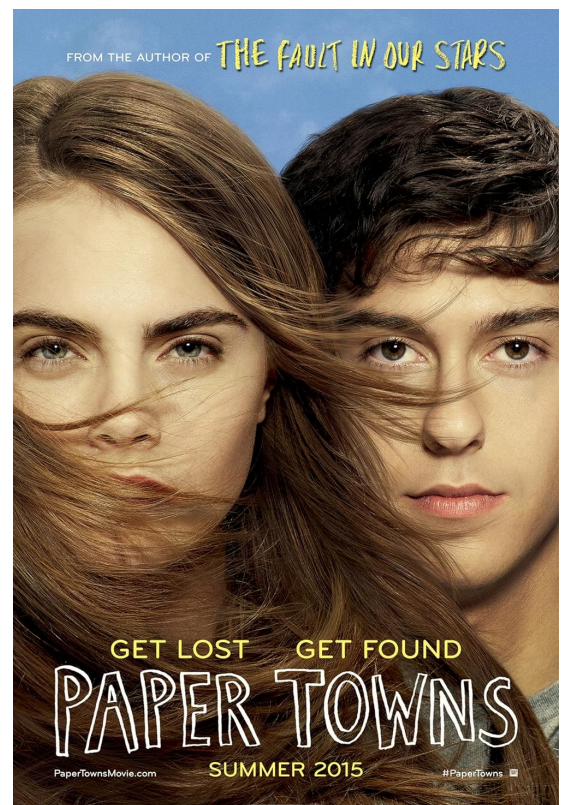
Quentin Jacobsen has always loved Margo Roth Spiegelman, for Margo (and her adventures) are the stuff of legend at their high school. So when Margo one day climbs through his window and summons him on an all-night road trip of revenge he cannot help but follow.

But the next day Margo doesn't come to school and a week later she is still missing. Quentin soon learns that there are clues in her disappearance . . . and they are for him. But as he gets deeper into the mystery - culminating in another awesome road trip across America - he

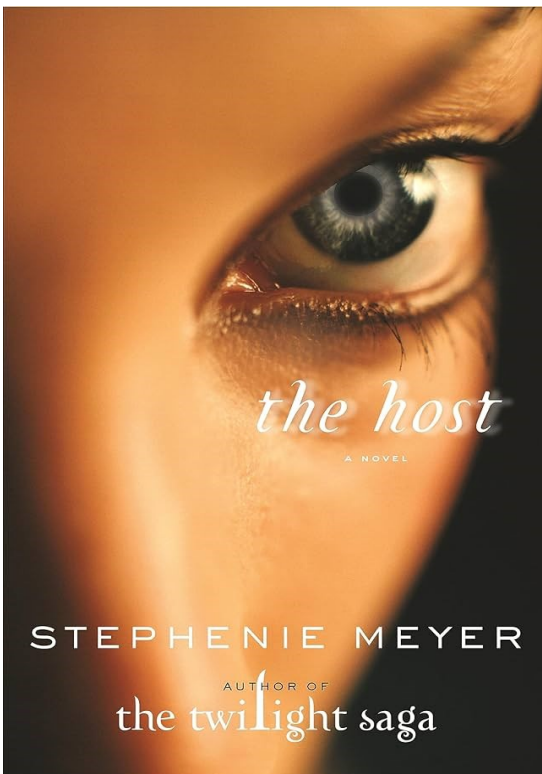
becomes less sure of who and what he is looking for.

About the Film...

Paper Towns was released by 20th Century Fox in 2015 and falls into the genre of a romantic comedy-drama. The story follows the search by Quentin "Q" Jacobsen to find Margo Roth Spiegelman, his childhood friend and the object of his affection. In the process of looking for her, Quentin explores the relationship with his friends and his compatibility with Margo. The casting of super model Cara Delevingne in the main role went some way to explaining why despite receiving mixed reviews by critics, the film had a gross profit of \$85 million worldwide against a production budget of just \$12 million. Paper Towns was the second of John Green's Books made into films, the first being the tear-jerker A Fault in their Stars. It can be streamed on Apple TV and Amazon Prime.



The Host by Stephanie Meyer



About the Book...

Melanie Stryder refuses to fade away. The earth has been invaded by a species that takes over the minds of their human hosts while leaving their bodies intact, and most of humanity has succumbed.

Wanderer, the invading 'soul' who has been given Melanie's body, knew about the challenges of living inside a human: the overwhelming emotions, the too-vivid memories. But there was one difficulty Wanderer didn't expect: the former tenant of her body refusing to relinquish possession of her mind.

Melanie fills Wanderer's thoughts with visions of the man Melanie loves - Jared, a human

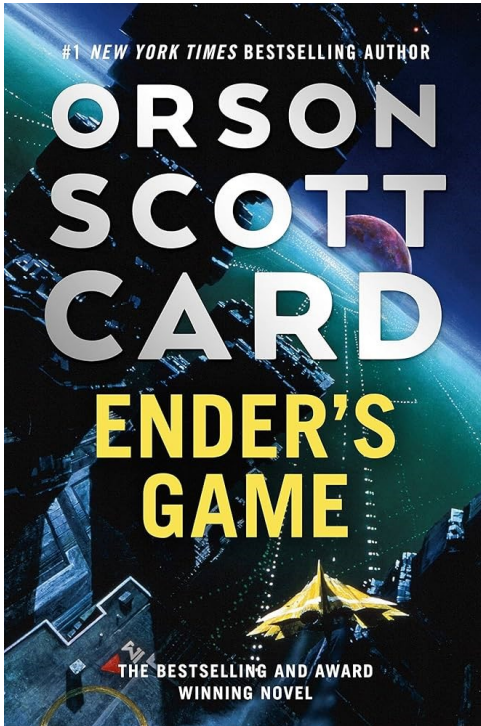
who still lives in hiding. Unable to separate herself from her body's desires, Wanderer yearns for a man she's never met. As outside forces make Wanderer and Melanie unwilling allies, they set off to search for the man they both love.

About the Film...

Producers were no doubt hoping to duplicate the success of the Twilight Saga films, also based on books by Stephanie Meyers, when they released *The Host* in 2013. Advertised as a romantic science fiction thriller, the film starred a young Saoirse Ronan. It tells the story of Melanie, who is captured after the human race has been taken over by parasitic aliens called "Souls". After Melanie is infused with a "Soul" called "Wanderer", Melanie and the alien "Soul" vie for control of her body. The film underperformed at the box office and received unfavourable reviews from critics. However, Saoirse Ronan performance was popular with the teen audiences and was nominated for a Teen Choice Award under the category "Movie Actress: Sci-fi/Fantasy". *The Host* can be streamed via Amazon Prime.



Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card



About the Book...

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs. His teachers think he could become a great leader. And they need one. A vast alien force is headed for Earth, its mission: the annihilation of all human life. Ender could be our only hope. But first he must survive the most brutal military training program in the galaxy...

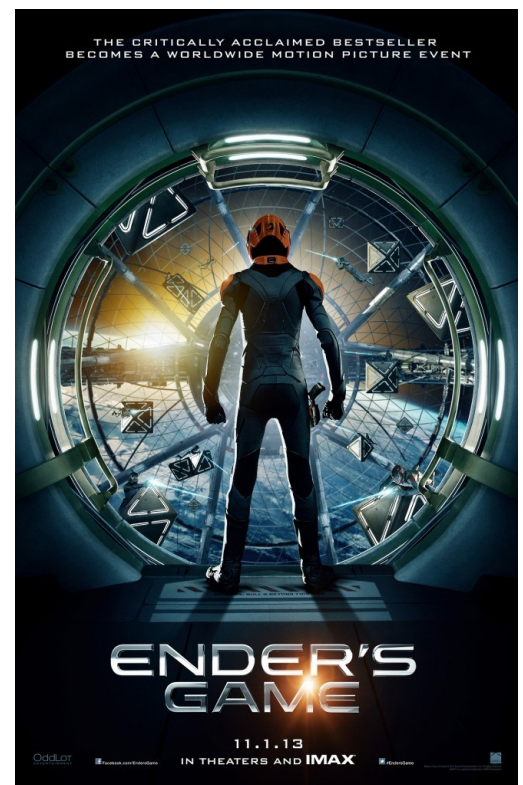
This is the first book in the *Ender's Game* series (often referred to as

the *Ender* saga and also the *Enderverse*). The series has expanded to now consist of sixteen novels, thirteen short stories, 47 comic issues, an audioplay, and a film...

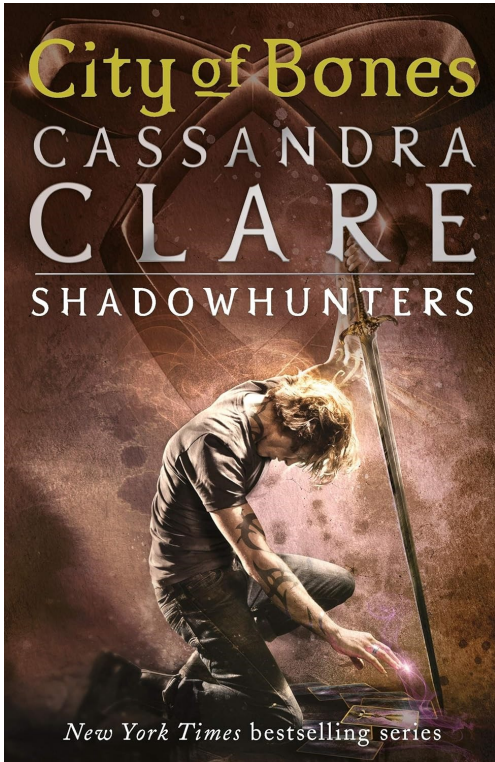
About the Film...

The film was advertised as a military science-fiction action film based on Orson Scott Card's 1985 novel of the same name. Written and directed by Gavin Hood, the film stars Asa Butterfield as Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, an unusually gifted child who is sent to an advanced military academy in space to prepare for a future alien invasion.

The film was released in 2013 and received mixed reviews from critics. It was commonly felt "the film isn't quite as thought-provoking as the book, *but* still manages to offer a commendable number of well-acted, solidly written sci-fi thrills". It underperformed at the box-office, resulting in a loss of \$68 million for the studio. But maybe you will enjoy it? It is available on multiple streaming platforms, so sci-fi fans can make their own judgements.



City of Bones by Cassandra Clare



About the Book...

When fifteen-year-old Clary Fray heads out to the Pandemonium Club in New York City, she hardly expects to witness a murder - much less a murder committed by three teenagers covered with strange tattoos and brandishing bizarre weapons. Then the body disappears into thin air. It's hard to call the police when the murderers are invisible to everyone else and when there is nothing, not even a smear of blood, to show that a boy has died. Or was he a boy? This is Clary's first meeting with the Shadowhunters, warriors dedicated to ridding the earth of demons. It's also her first encounter with Jace, a Shadowhunter who looks a little like an angel and acts a lot like a jerk. Within

twenty-four hours Clary is pulled into Jace's world with a vengeance when her mother disappears and Clary herself is attacked by a demon. But why would demons be interested in ordinary mundanes like Clary and her mother? And how did Clary suddenly get the Sight? The Shadowhunters would like to know...

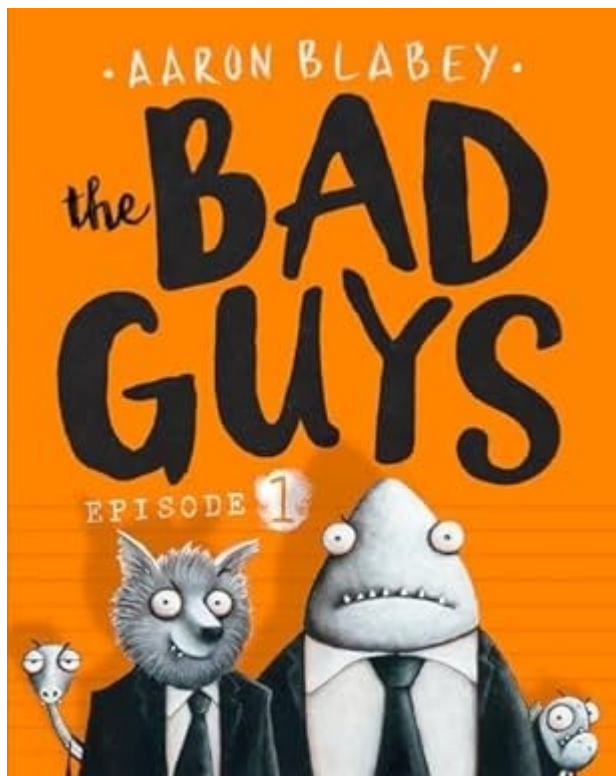
About the Film...

The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones is an urban fantasy film based on the first book in The Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare. The film stars Lily Collins as Clary Fray, a teenager from New York City who meets a group of Nephilim known as the Shadowhunters while also discovering her own heritage and her family history.

The film was released in 2013 and was originally intended to launch a movie series in conjunction with the six books in Clare's Mortal Instrument series. However, further films were postponed indefinitely and ultimately cancelled due to City of Bones poor performance at the box office. It did however spawn a TV series called Shadowhunters that ran for three series. You can stream the film on several platforms, including Amazon Prime, to see what you think.



The Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey



About the Book...

They sound like the Bad Guys, they look like the Bad Guys... and they even smell like the Bad Guys. But Mr Wolf, Mr Piranha, Mr Snake and Mr Shark are about to change all of that - whether you want them to or not! Mr Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. The gang are going to break 200 dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr Snake please stop swallowing Mr Piranha?

Bad Guys, episode one, is the first of

twenty titles in this hugely popular graphic novel series, which revolves around a gang of 'bad guy' animals who attempt to perform good deeds to change society's perception of them as criminals.

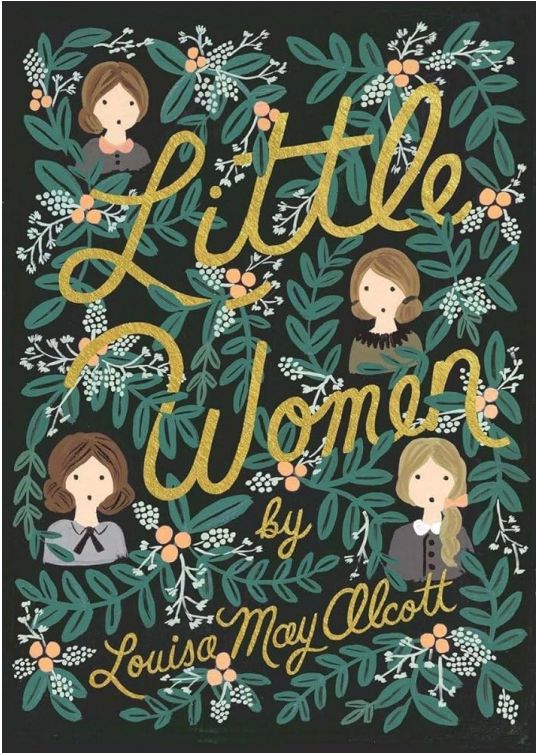
About the Film...

Produced by Dreamworks Animation Studios, The Bad Guys is a 2022 animated heist comedy film loosely based on the children's book series of the same name. It tells the story of a criminal group of animals who, upon being caught, pretend to attempt to reform themselves as model citizens, only for their leader to find himself genuinely drawn to changing his ways for good as a new villain has his own plans.

Work on the film started in March 2018, but was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The film was finally released in 2022. It received positive reviews from critics for its animation, screenplay, humour, and voice acting. A sequel is in development and is set to be released on 1st August 2025. It is available on Netflix.



Little Women by Louisa May Alcott



About the Book...

The four March sisters couldn't be more different: Meg, the eldest, is dutiful and patient; Jo is adventurous, with dreams of being a great writer; shy, musical Beth is the peacemaker; and headstrong Amy likes the finer things in life. They may not always get along, but with their father away in the Civil War and their mother struggling to make ends meet, the sisters have never needed each other more. Together, the girls navigate growing up – from first love to sibling rivalry, loss and marriage. Whatever comes their way, they know they can rely on each other.

Originally published in 1868, generations of readers have fallen in love with the March sisters of

Louisa May Alcott's most popular and enduring novel, *Little Women*. Far from being the "girl's book" her publisher requested, it explores such timeless themes as love and death, war and peace, the conflict between personal ambition and family responsibilities, as well as the clash of cultures between Europe and America.

About the Film...

Considered an American coming-of-age period drama this 2019 film was written and directed by Greta Gerwig (Director of 2023 Summer Smash Barbie). It is the seventh film adaptation of the 1868 novel of the same name and chronicles the lives of the March sisters in Concord, Massachusetts, during the 19th century. It boasts big name stars including, Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh, Timothée Chalamet and Meryl Streep. *Little Women* premiered at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in December 2019. The film received critical acclaim, with particular praise for Gerwig's screenplay and direction as well as the performances of the cast, and grossed \$218 million worldwide. Among its numerous accolades, the film garnered six Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture, Best Actress (Ronan), Best Supporting Actress (Pugh), Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Original Score, and won for Best Costume Design. It also earned five British Academy Film Award nominations, with a win for Best Costume Design, and two Golden Globe Award nominations. It is available on ITVX.



Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo



About the Book...

When Michael and his parents set off on an around the world journey by yacht, Michael has no idea what adventures await him. On the night of his twelfth birthday Michael finds himself washed up on an island in the Pacific, where he struggles to survive on his own. With no food and no water, he curls up to die. But when he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, of fruit, and a bowl of fresh water. He soon realises there is someone close by, someone who is watching over him and helping him to stay alive. Following a close-run battle between life and death, the mysterious stranger, Kensuke, allows Michael into his world and they become friends, teaching and learning

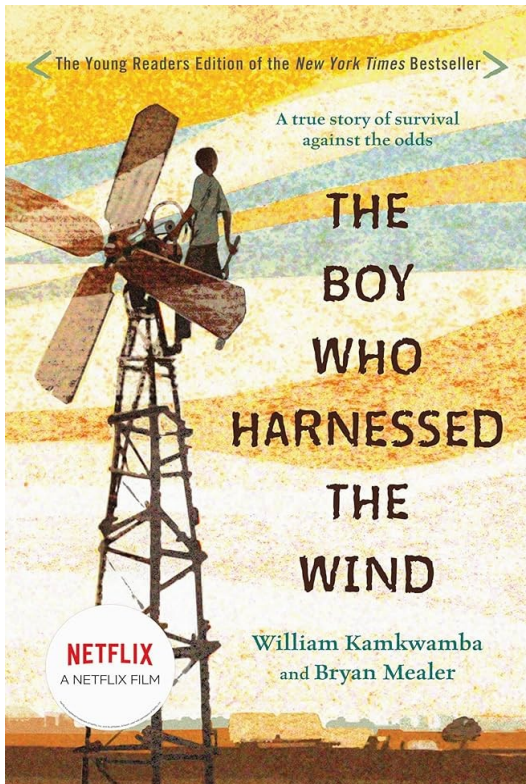
from each other. They do everything together! Until...One night, an eerie light comes gliding swiftly towards the island...

About the Film...

This hand drawn animated film is based on the book by the same name. Although not available on general release to audiences until August, the film was premiered at the 67th BFI London Film Festival in October 2023. It has an All-star cast, including Cillian Murphy, Oscar winning actor (Oppenheimer). Beautifully animated, the film captures the essence of the book, bringing to life the breath-taking landscapes and the emotional journey of the characters. The relationship between Michael and Kensuke is heart-warming and poignant, as they learn to trust and rely on each other despite their differences. The film explores themes of friendship, courage, and the power of nature, as Michael discovers the true meaning of survival and the importance of compassion and understanding. **Mark your calendars, so you don't miss this cinema release on 2nd August!**



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba



About the Book...

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is a remarkable true story about human ingenuity and its

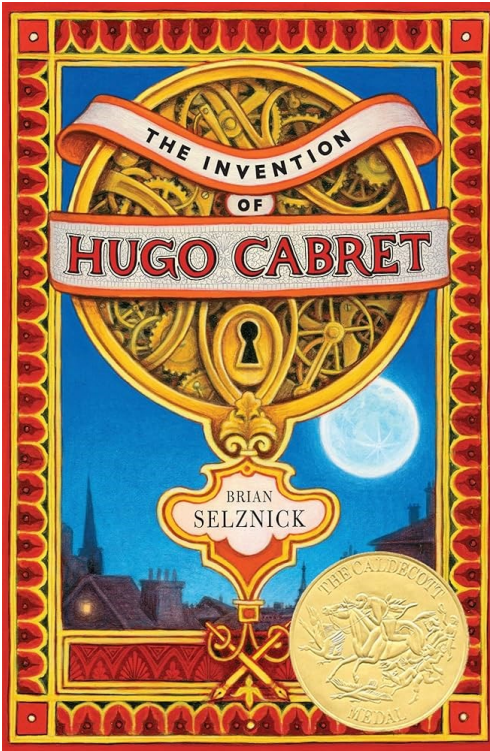
power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him. This 'Young Readers' edition shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world.

About the Film...

Written, directed and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor in his feature directorial debut The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind film is based on the memoir of the same name by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. It is a gripping tale of survival and perseverance by the heroic young inventor who brought electricity to his Malawian village. The film was originally screened in the Premieres section at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival and was streamed internationally in most countries on Netflix in March 2019. The film was selected as the British entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards. It received widely positive reviews with praise going to Ejiofor's direction, acting and uplifting themes. It is available to watch on Netflix.



The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick



About the Book...

ORPHAN, CLOCK KEEPER, AND THIEF, twelve-year-old Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric girl and the owner of a small toy booth in the train station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message all come together in *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.

This 526-page book is told in both words and pictures. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is not

exactly a novel, and it's not quite a picture book, and it's not really a graphic novel, or a flip book, or a movie, but a combination of all these things. Each picture (there are nearly three hundred pages of pictures!) takes up an entire double page spread, and the story moves forward because you turn the pages to see the next moment unfold in front of you. It really is quite unique.

About the Film...

Hugo is a 2011 adventure drama film directed and produced by Martin Scorsese, based on Brian Selznick's 2007 book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. It tells the story of a boy who lives alone within the Gare Montparnasse Railway Station in Paris in the 1930s, who becomes embroiled in a mystery surrounding his late father's automaton and the pioneering filmmaker Georges Méliès.

Hugo received 11 Academy Award nominations (including Best Picture), more than any other film that year. However despite receiving considerable acclaim from critics, the film was a financial disappointment. See what you think for yourself by watching it on various platforms.



Enola Holmes and the Case of the Missing Marquess by Nancy Springer



About the Book...

When Enola Holmes, sister to the detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she quickly embarks on a journey to London in search of her. But nothing can prepare her for what awaits. Because when she arrives, she finds herself involved in the kidnapping of a young marquess, fleeing murderous villains, and trying to elude her shrewd older brothers, all while attempting to piece together clues to her mother's strange disappearance. Amid all the mayhem, will Enola be able to decode the necessary clues and find her mother?

Written in 2006, this is the first of nine books in the series by Nancy Springer.

About the Film...

Enola Holmes is a 2020 mystery film starring Millie Bobby Brown (Stranger Things) as the title character, the teenage sister of the already famous detective Sherlock Holmes. The film is adapted from the first novel in The Enola Holmes Mysteries series. Filmed in 2019 it was originally planned for a theatrical release by Warner Bros. Pictures. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the distribution rights to the film were picked up by Netflix and it was released in 2020 on their streaming platform. It became one of the most-watched original Netflix film releases, with an estimated 76 million households watching the film over its first four weeks!



Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve



About the Book...

In a futuristic steampunk world, humanity has rebuilt technology from scratch following a cataclysmic event called the Sixty Minute War. Earth is now a dystopian world where cities have become huge, mobile machines that compete for resources. London is the biggest of them all, capturing and destroying smaller cities for personal gain. A young archivist in training (and Londoner) Tom Natsworthy looks up to the leaders of London, particularly a man known as Valentine. But when a mysterious girl sneaks into the city and tries to kill Valentine, things go horribly wrong and both Tom and the girl are banished – so begins their desperate struggle to

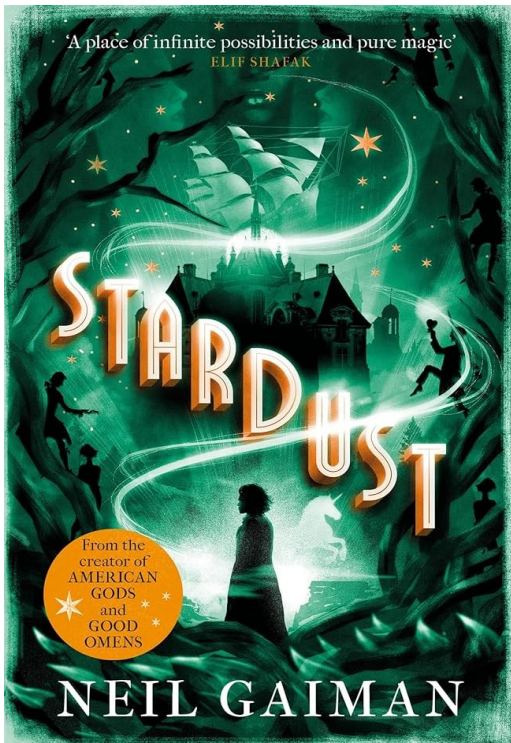
find their way back. The world in this book is expansive, complex and utterly unique and intriguing. You won't have read anything like it!

About the Film...

Advertised as dystopian steampunk film, *Mortal Engines* was based on the 2001 novel of the same name by Philip Reeve. The film is set in a post-apocalyptic world where entire cities have been mounted on wheels and motorised, and practice municipal Darwinism; its movie universe is different from that of the book, but it would be recommended to read the book first as it allows for a better understanding of some of the more confusing components of the story. Filmed in New Zealand and released in 2018, the film did not do well in cinemas and lost the studio a staggering £175 million. However, fans of the book loved it as did its author, Phillip Reeve. Why don't you decide for yourself. It is available to stream Amazon Prime Video or Netflix.



Stardust by Neil Gaiman



About the Book...

In the tranquil fields and meadows of long-ago England, there is a small hamlet that has stood on a jut of granite for 600 years. Just to the east stands a high stone wall, for which the village is named. Here, in the hamlet of Wall, young Tristran Thorn has lost his heart to the hauntingly beautiful Victoria Forester. And here, one crisp October eve, Tristran makes his love a promise an impetuous vow that will send him through the only breach in the wall, across the pasture... and into the most exhilarating

adventure of his life. Gaiman is known to write dark fantasy, and however seemingly dreamlike or unassailably wondrous things get, there is always the sense that this is a world which is as savage as it is beautiful. This is a fairy tale indeed.... but not one for younger readers.

About the Film...

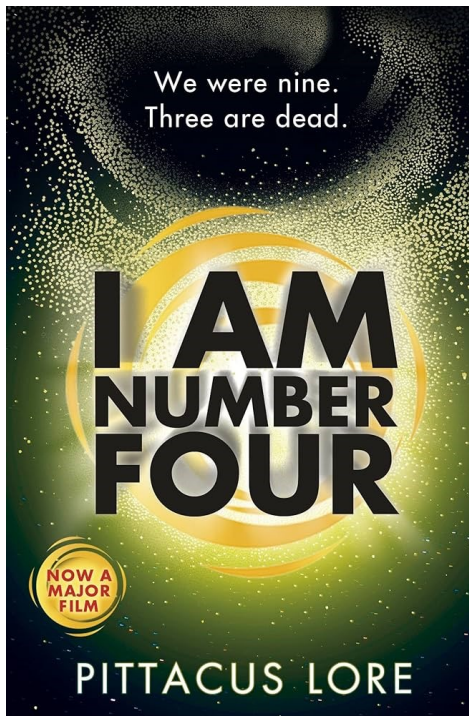
This 2007 romantic fantasy adventure film is based on Neil Gaiman's 1999 novel of the same name. It features a fantastic cast of superb actors, including Robert De Niro, Claire Danes, Ricky Gervais and Michelle Pfeiffer to name just a few.

As in the book, the film follows Tristan, a young man from the fictional town of Wall in England who enters the magical world to collect a fallen star to give to his beloved Victoria. However he is hampered in his quest by the Witches and the Princes of Stormhold who are also hunting for the star. The scenes in Stormhold were actually filmed in Elm Hill in Norwich!

It received favourable reviews, praising its faithful interpretation of the book that captures the spirit of whimsy, action, and off-kilter humour of Neil Gaiman. It is available to watch on multiple streaming platforms.



I am Number Four by Pittacus Lore



About the Book...

John Smith is not your average teenager. He regularly moves from small town to small town. He changes his name and identity. He does not put down roots. He cannot tell anyone who or what he really is. If he stops moving those who hunt him will find and kill him. But you can't run forever.

So when he stops in Paradise, Ohio, John decides to try and settle down. To fit in. And for the first time he makes some real friends. People he cares about - and who care about him. Never in John's short life has there been space for friendship, or

even love.

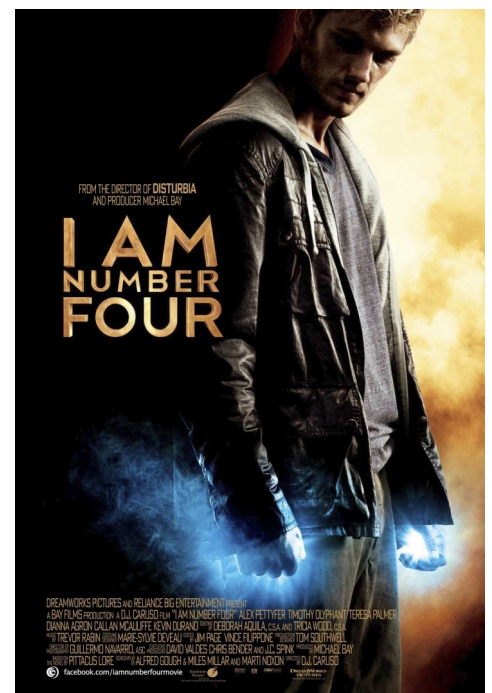
But it's just a matter of time before John's secret is revealed.

About the Film...

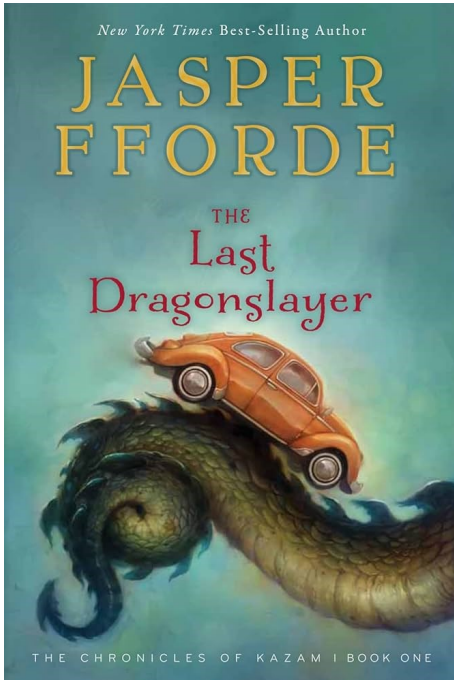
Advertised as a science fiction action movie, the film follows a teenage alien on Earth fleeing other aliens who are hunting him down. The screenplay is based on the 2010 novel of the same name, which is the first book in the Lorien Legacies young adult science fiction novels by Pittacus Lore.

Produced by Michael Bay (of Transformer movie fame), as part of DreamWorks Pictures and distributed by Walt Disney Studios, there were high hopes for the movie. On its release in 2011 it received many negative critic reviews, however the film was a box office success, grossing \$149.9 million against a budget of \$50–59 million.

Most agree, the book series is better, but you can judge for yourself by streaming it YouTube or Amazon Prime.



The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde



About the Book...

In the good old days, magic was indispensable—it could both save a kingdom and clear a clogged drain.

But now magic is fading: drain cleaner is cheaper than a spell, and magic carpets are used for pizza delivery. Fifteen-year-old foundling Jennifer Strange runs Kazam, an employment agency for magicians—but it's hard to stay in business when magic is drying up.

And then the visions start, predicting the death of the world's last dragon at the hands of an unnamed Dragonslayer. If the visions are true, everything will change for Kazam—and for Jennifer. Because something is coming. Something known as . . . Big Magic. This is the first book in The Chronicles of Kazam series. There are four in total.

About the Film...

Produced in the UK and released on Sky in December 2016, the Last Dragonslayer movie is set in a fantasy world where magic is being superseded by technology and an orphaned teen discovers her destiny to become a Dragonslayer. Filled with enough dragons, wizards, villains, magic and mayhem to keep you enthralled this movie is full of fun. True, the special effects are not cutting edge, and by Hollywood standards it is quite low budget, but just don't take it too seriously. Its available to stream on NOW and Amazon Prime Video.

